

Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes

Testimony of
Rhonda Boisvert, President

in opposition to

SB 522- AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ADMINISTERED BY NURSING HOMES TO VETERANS.

Senator Flexer, Representative Hennessy and members of the Veteran's Committee, my name is Rhonda Boisvert and I am the President of the Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes. I am offering written testify in **opposition to SB 522- AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ADMINISTERED BY NURSING HOMES TO VETERANS.**

The Ct Association of Residential Care Homes (CARCH) is the only organization composed entirely of residential care homes. Connecticut has about 100 residential care homes in the state with approximately 2,700 total beds. Residential care homes provide a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services and care designed to respond to the individual needs of those who require a little more help with their activities of daily living but who do not need the skilled medical or nursing care provided in a nursing home. About sixty percent of residents have mental disabilities while the remaining residents are elderly individuals.

Our Association must oppose including residential care homes in this legislation because residential care homes are not licensed medical facilities such as a nursing home. In fact, residential care homes are paid through the Aid to the Aged, Blind & Disabled line items and not Medicaid because they provide a non-medical service. The bill as currently drafted would require residential care homes to dispense and administer prescription drugs obtained by a patient through a prescription drug program or health plan.

Residential care home employees are not health care employees. Although some homes have employees who assist in medication administration they do not dispense the medication. Residents must be capable of administering the medication on their own.

CARCH therefore asks that you exclude residential care homes from this proposal by specifically stating that this bill does not apply to residential care homes. Since residential care homes are not medical facilities they should be treated differently than other healthcare providers including nursing homes .

We appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony and hope you will consider our suggestion of removing residential care homes from this proposal.